

Written Testimony

History and Professional Background

I was born and reared on the Westside of Detroit - in the 6 mile and Livernois area. I have two older siblings both of whom live in the western part of the United States. I graduated from Detroit, Murray Wright High School. Throughout my junior and high school education I was encouraged by my parents to participate in after school programs that would further enrich my educational experience and interest. Professionally, I have over 12 years of customer service call center experience which includes work with Bally's Health Club Systems and Verizon Wireless. In each instance I began as an entry level inbound call center representative and successfully progressed to supervisor. Before accepting the offer to attend Bizdom U, I was in my senior year at Wayne State University (WSU) majoring in Business Management and Marketing. I was referred to the Bizdom U program by a professor at WSU who was assisting me with my business plan for my creative design business.

Favorite Class

The class I enjoy the most and get the most benefit from is Business Wisdom. Business Wisdom is a class where invited business and civil leaders speak to the entrepreneurs of Bizdom U about their history and experiences in their industry. This class is also a great forum for networking, which is the cornerstone of a successful entrepreneur. My favorite Business Wisdom guest speaker during the first semester of Bizdom U was Dominic Pangborn, CEO of Pangborn Design. Pangborn Design is a multimillion dollar, internationally recognized graphic design firm headquartered in downtown Detroit. His passion for colorful design work and a thriving culturally diverse Detroit really resonated with me.

My part in revitalizing Detroit

My part in revitalizing the city of Detroit comes in four ways. First, creating a successful enterprise in Detroit that will provide a variety of employment opportunities. Second, by using the success of my enterprise to give back to the communities in need throughout the city of Detroit. Third, using my successful enterprise as a catalyst to encourage former residents to return and reconsider Detroit and its business opportunities. Last is to use my success to mentor and inspire other entrepreneurs to take responsibility for financial and economic growth in their community.

Conclusion

I want to thank the House Commerce Committee and representative Andy Meisner for inviting Bizdom U to address this committee and talk about our exciting entrepreneurial program. I am so grateful for the Bizdom U entrepreneurial program created by Dan Gilbert because it came at a time when I was considering leaving Michigan after attaining my degree from WSU. I truly believe this program and other programs that develop entrepreneurs is the key for diversifying the workforce throughout Detroit, the region, and the state. I ask you today to please consider the testimony that you have heard from me and my classmates as you make decisions concerning Michigan's economic growth.